

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 8-22 are presently active in this case. The present amendment adds claims 8-22 and cancels claims 1-7. The above amendment shows all currently active claims and their status.

In the outstanding Office Action, the disclosure was objected to because of informalities. The drawings were objected to because Figures 4 and 5 are each two drawings. The drawings were also requested to be placed on the sheets so that they may be easily viewed with the pages in a vertical orientation. Claims 1-7 were objected to because of informalities. Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Iwahori.

In response to the objection to the disclosure, Applicants have attached a substitute amended the specification to correct informalities.

In response to the objection to the drawings, Applicants have replaced Figure 4 and Figure 5 with Figure 4a, 4b to indicate the seizing element having a thinner end and a thicker end according to the illustration of the specification. The Figure 5 has been deleted. Applicants further have placed Figures 1-4 on the sheets in a vertical orientation.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that claims 4-7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims, and overcoming the claim objections. Applicants have added new independent claim 8 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claims 3 and 4 into claim 1. Applicants have added new independent claim 12 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claims 3 and 5 into claim 1. Applicants have added new independent claim 16 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claims 6 into claim 1. Applicants further have added new claim 20 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 7 into claim 1. Thus, claims 8, 12, 16 and 20 are in condition for allowance. Claims 9-11, 13-15, 17-19 and 21-22 depend from claim 8, 12, 16 and 20 respectively, and thus are also allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks and amendments, the Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending objections and rejections have been addressed and overcome, leaving the present application in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

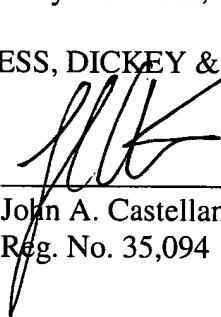
If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge any underpayment or non-payment of any fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, or credit any overpayment of such fees, to Deposit Account No. 08-0750, including, in particular, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


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